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# MINNESOTA'S PROGRESS ENDING VETERAN HOMELESSNESS

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Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans

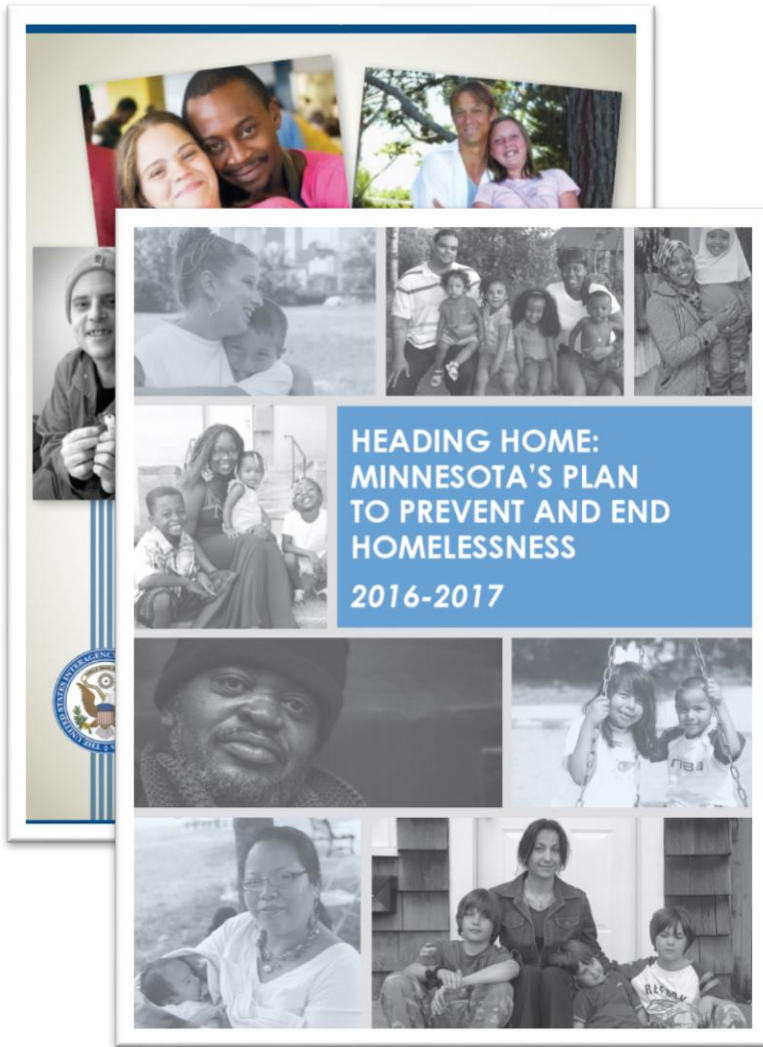
October 12, 2016

# Audience poll

By show of hands, who is here primarily to:

- Learn about progress ending Veteran homelessness?
- Contribute to how we do so more quickly?
- Consider how progress on Veteran homelessness could be applied to other populations?

# Our Goals



## *Opening Doors* Population Goal #1:

- Prevent and end homelessness among Veterans in 2015

## *Heading Home* Population Goal #1:

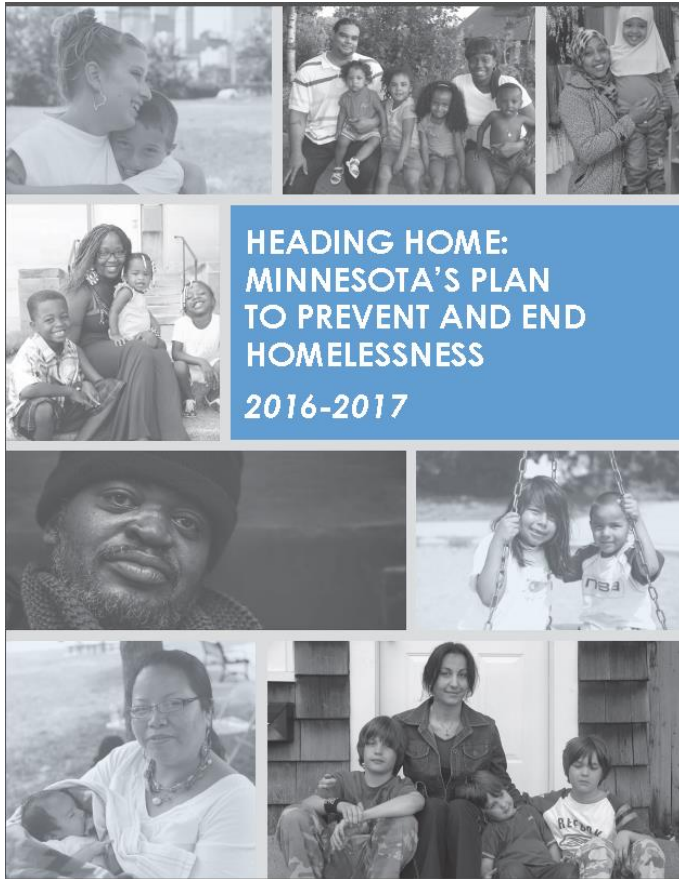
- Resolve and prevent future veteran homelessness

# The Minnesota Interagency Council on Homelessness

- Corrections
- Education
- Employment and Economic Development
- Governor's Office
- Health
- Higher Education
- Housing
- Human Rights
- Human Services
- Metropolitan Council
- Public Safety
- Transportation
- Veterans Affairs



# Our Vision: Housing Stability for All Minnesotans



Stable housing results in better educational outcomes for our children, a stronger workforce now and in the future, increased public safety, better health, reduced health care costs, and reduced disparities among communities.

<http://tinyurl.com/HeadingHomeMN>

***Governor Dayton***



## Cross-cutting Strategies

- ✓ Strategies that help end homelessness for all populations

## Strategies focused on each population goal

- ✓ Families with Children
- ✓ Youth
- ✓ Veterans
- ✓ Chronic

Prevent homelessness whenever possible, and otherwise making it rare, brief, and non-recurring



# ROLL CALL

## How New Orleans Ended Veteran Homelessness | Commentary

0 Comments [Share](#)

By Mitch Landrieu  
Jan. 30, 2015, 1:12 p.m.

In New Orleans, we are Katrina, literally all of us  
Unfortunately, too many  
In fact, 50,000 of our  
First lady Michelle  
unacceptable that  
While these brave  
them return home  
In New Orleans  
One of my  
in the Army  
took up the  
to End Y

### U.S. NEWS

## In a US first, New Orleans finds homes for all its homeless veterans

Noelle Swan  
Monday

**nola** The Times-Picayune Greater New Orleans

## 4 Homeless veterans in New Orleans find shelter at last: Editorial



Sponsored by: **LUBA Workers' Comp**

**MYHABIT**

CHI Limited Edition Soft Touch Ceramic Hairstyling Iron, Roy...

\$180  
\$69

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# VETERAN HOMELESSNESS HAS BEEN EFFECTIVELY ENDED IN 2 STATES AND 29 COMMUNITIES

[HUD.gov/mayorschallenge](http://HUD.gov/mayorschallenge)



# Benchmarks for success: What ending Veteran homelessness means in practice



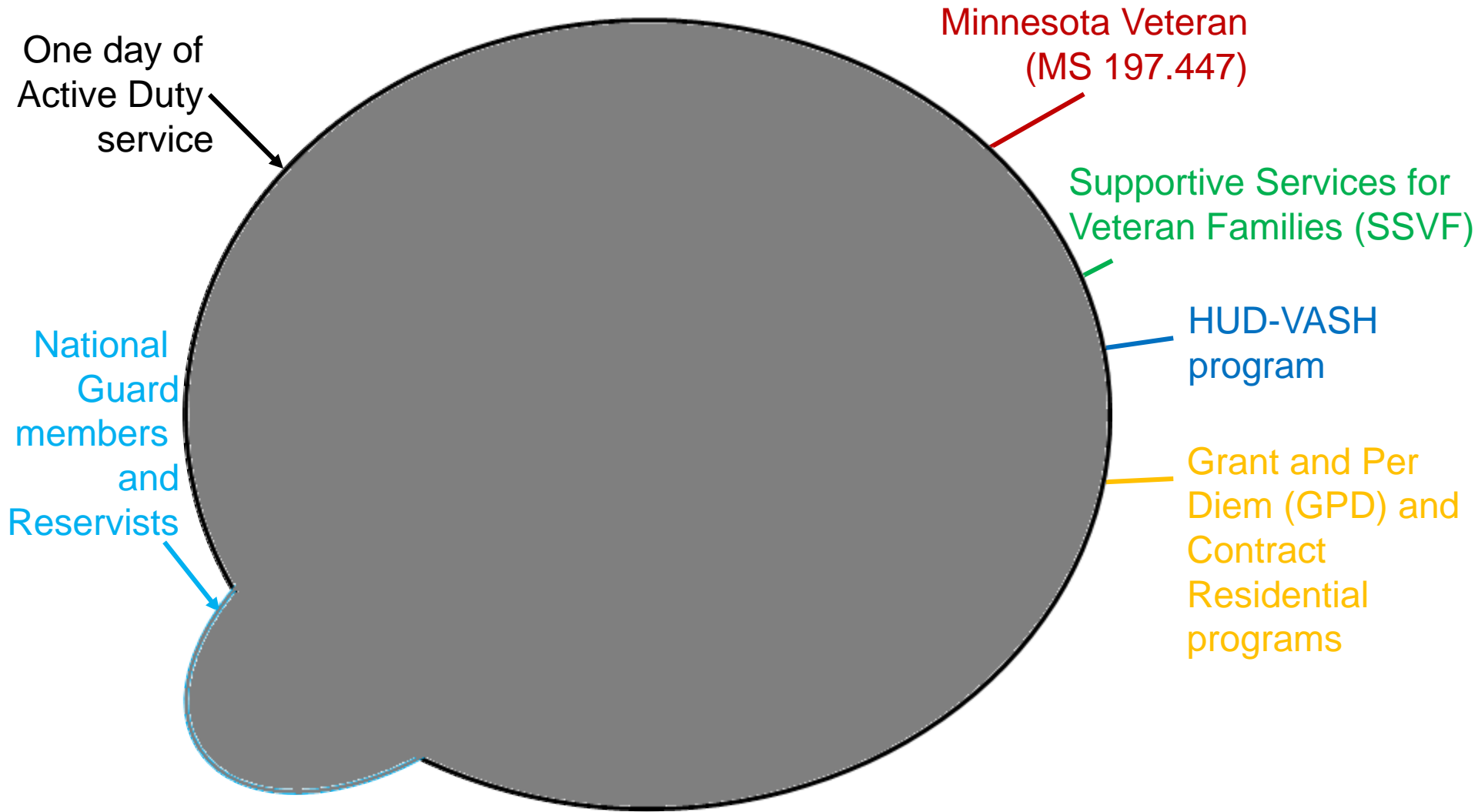
- Ending chronic homelessness among Veterans
- Providing access to permanent housing within 90 days
- Having sufficient housing capacity
- Using Housing First approaches

# Criteria for success: What ending Veteran homelessness means in practice

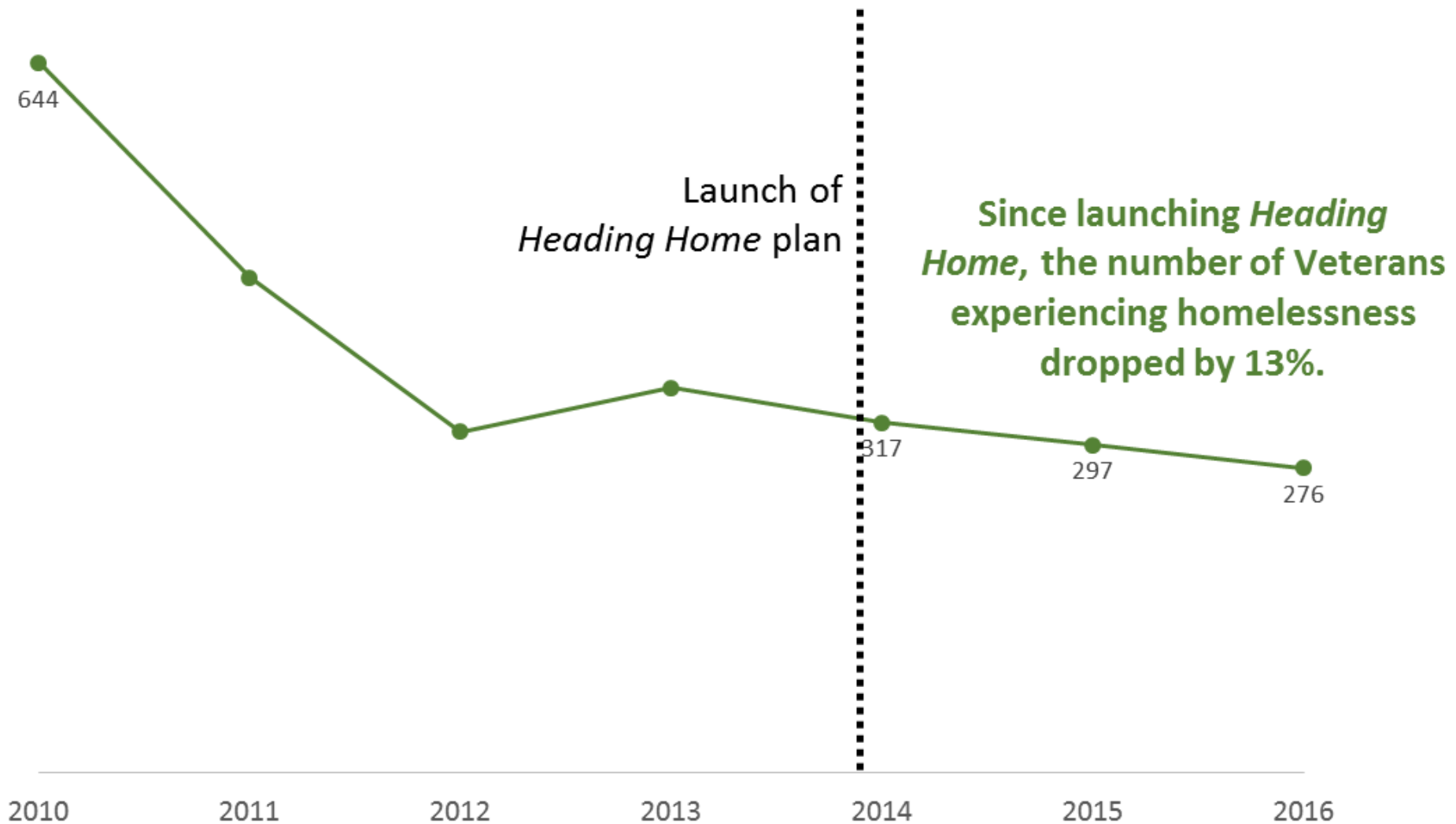


- Identifying all Veterans
- Immediately sheltering any unsheltered Vet
- Limiting use of service-intensive transitional housing
- Moving Veterans into permanent housing within 90 days
- Maintaining capacity to respond to Veterans in need

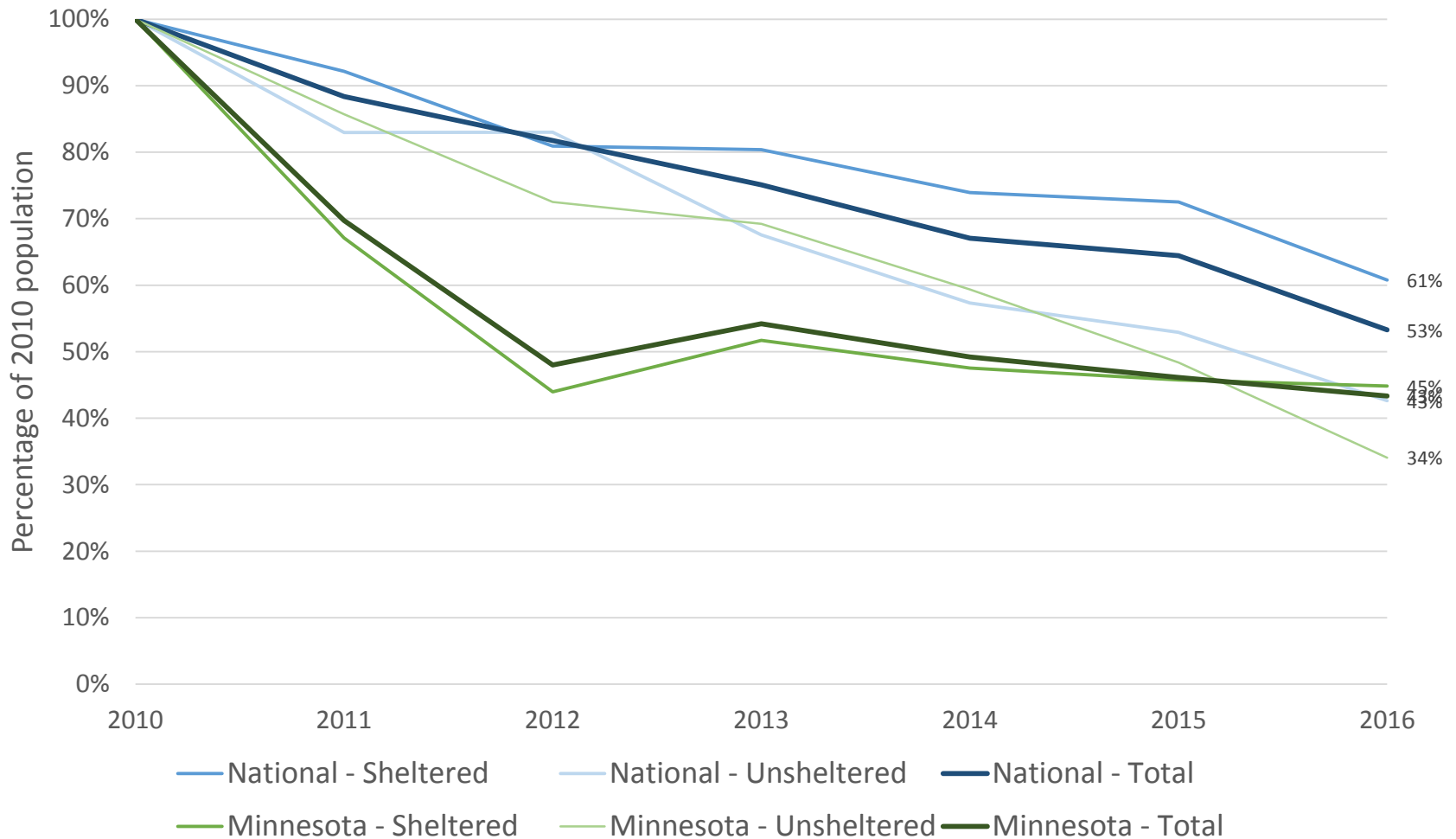
# Veteran status $\neq$ program eligibility



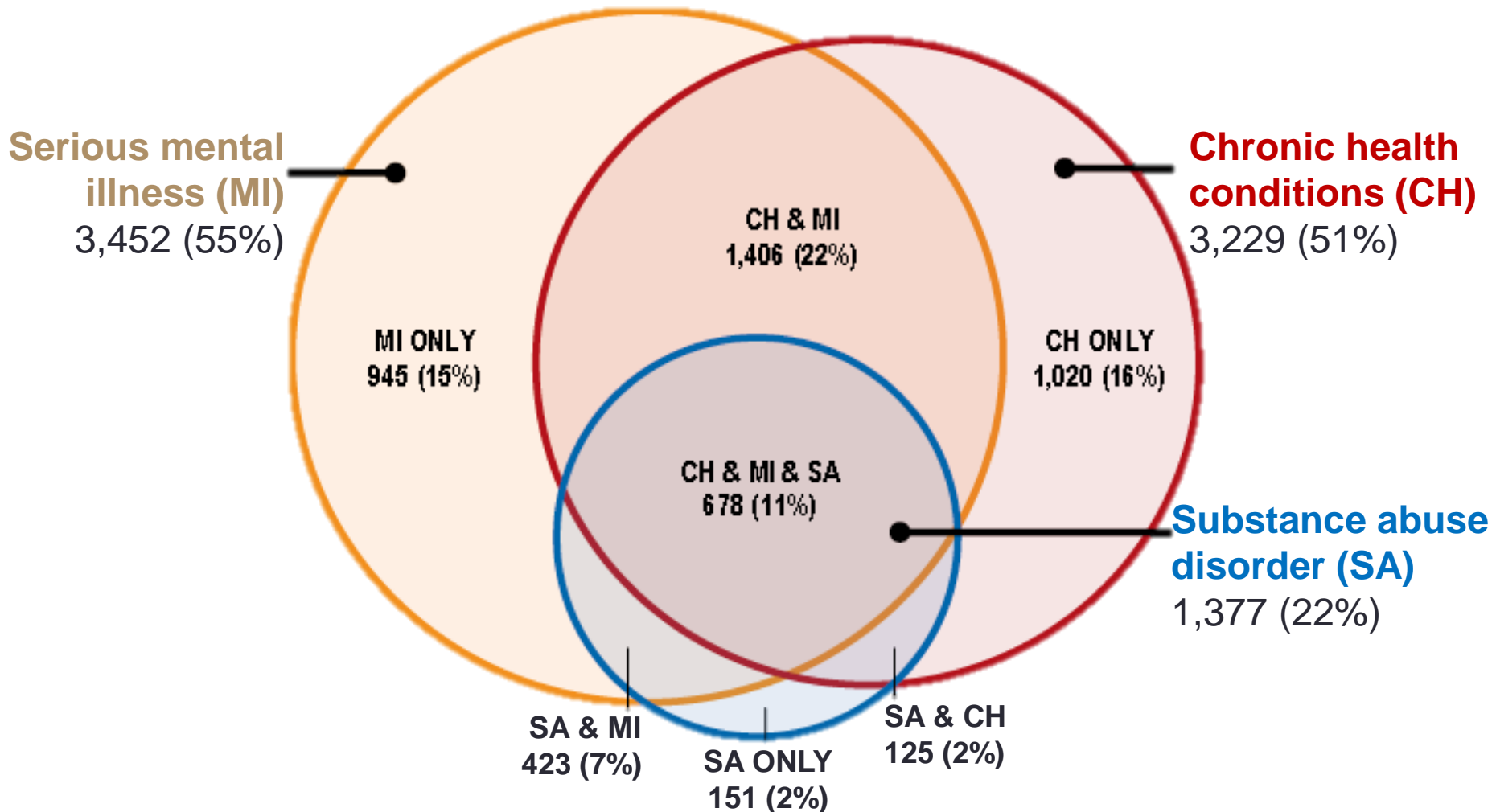
# Veteran Homelessness



# Reductions in Veteran Homelessness



# Multiple co-occurring challenges







# How to refer a Veteran to the Registry

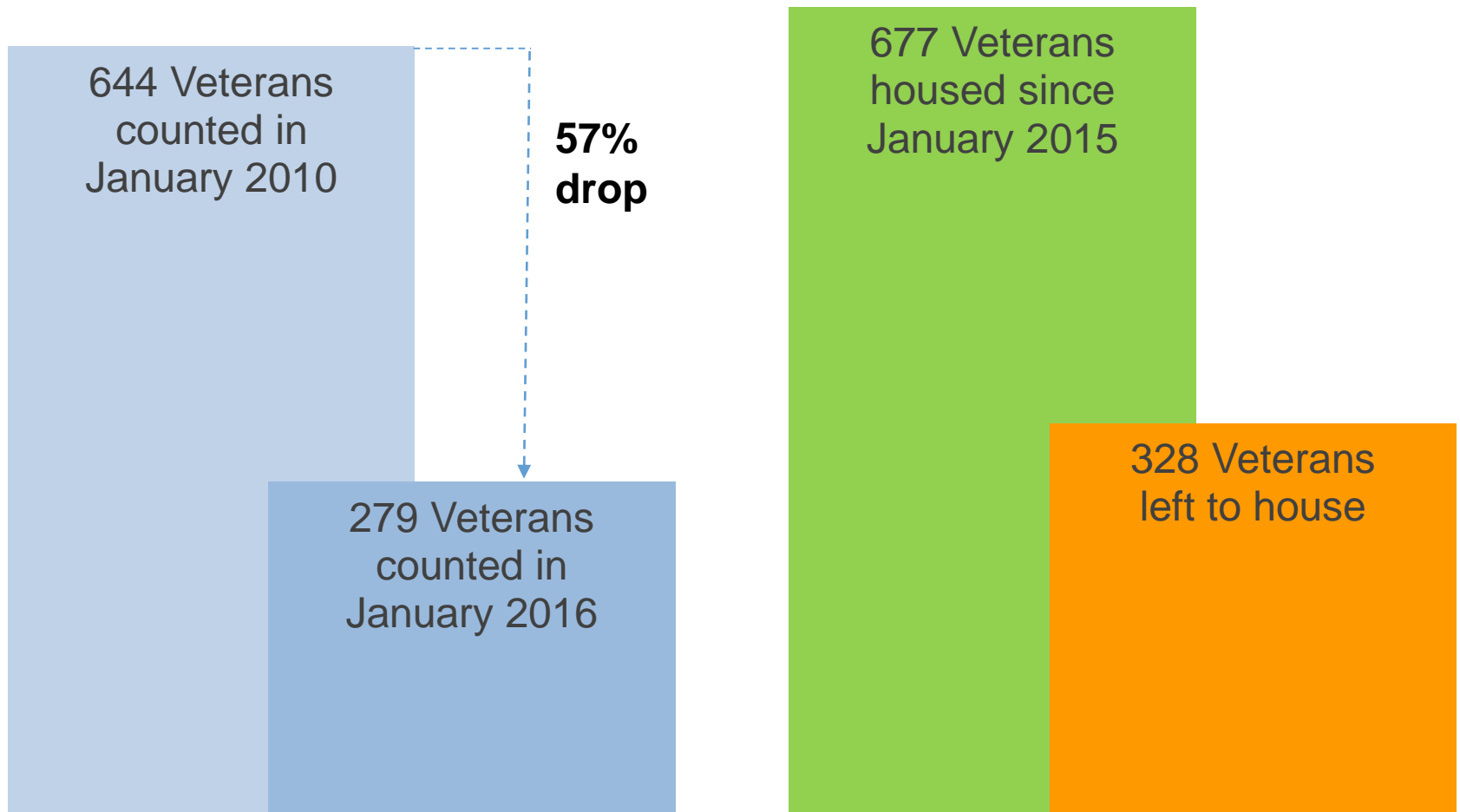
Every Veteran can join the Registry by:

- Calling LinkVet at 888-LinkVet (888-546-5838); or
- Completing a Registry application on MDVA's web site:  
<http://mn.gov/mdva/resources/familyassistance/HomelessVeteranRegistry.jsp>

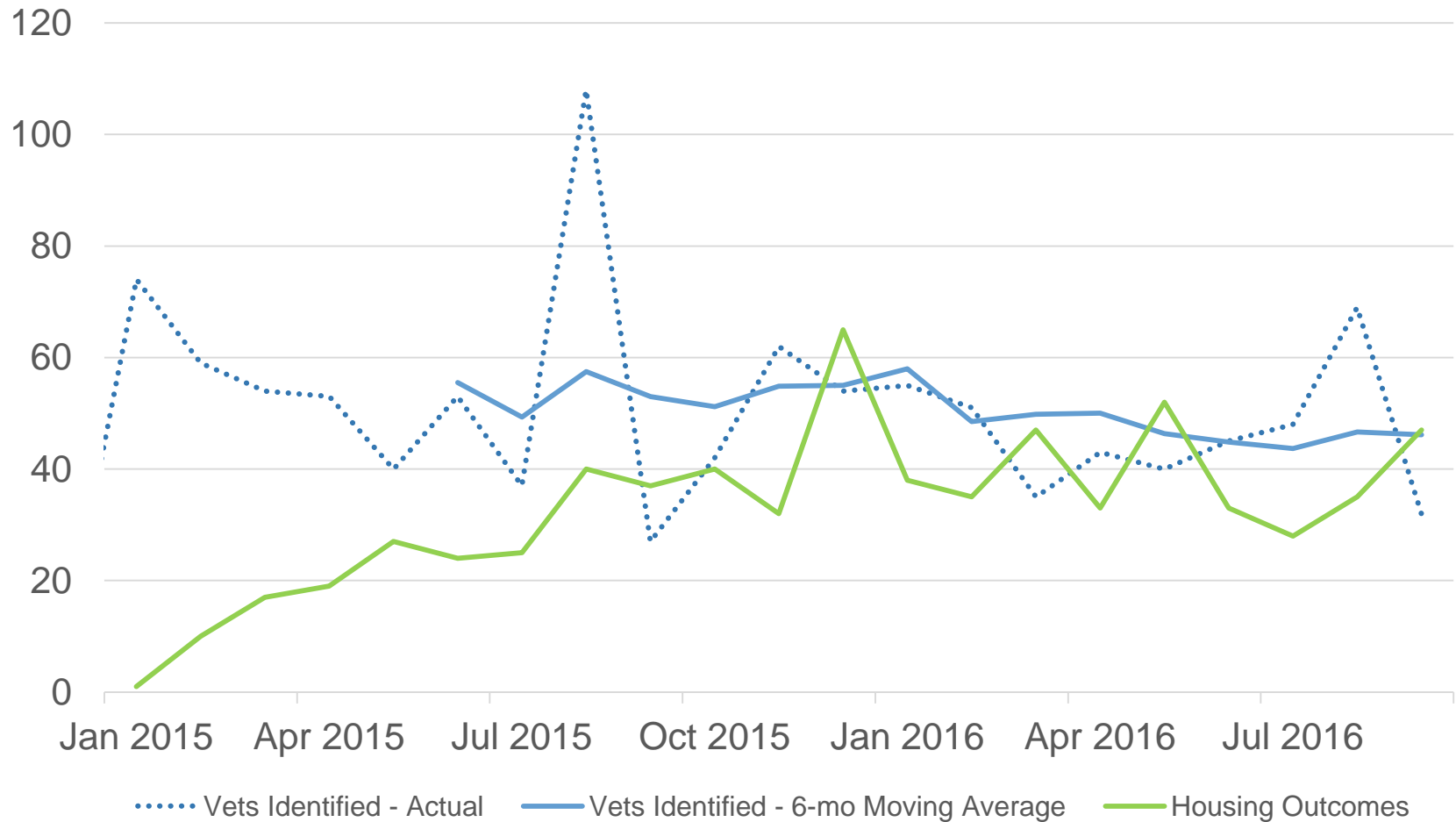
There are no requirements on the length of service or type of discharge to qualify – anyone who served can join.

Anyone can refer a Veteran: case managers, neighbors, friends or family, or others.

# Measures of Progress

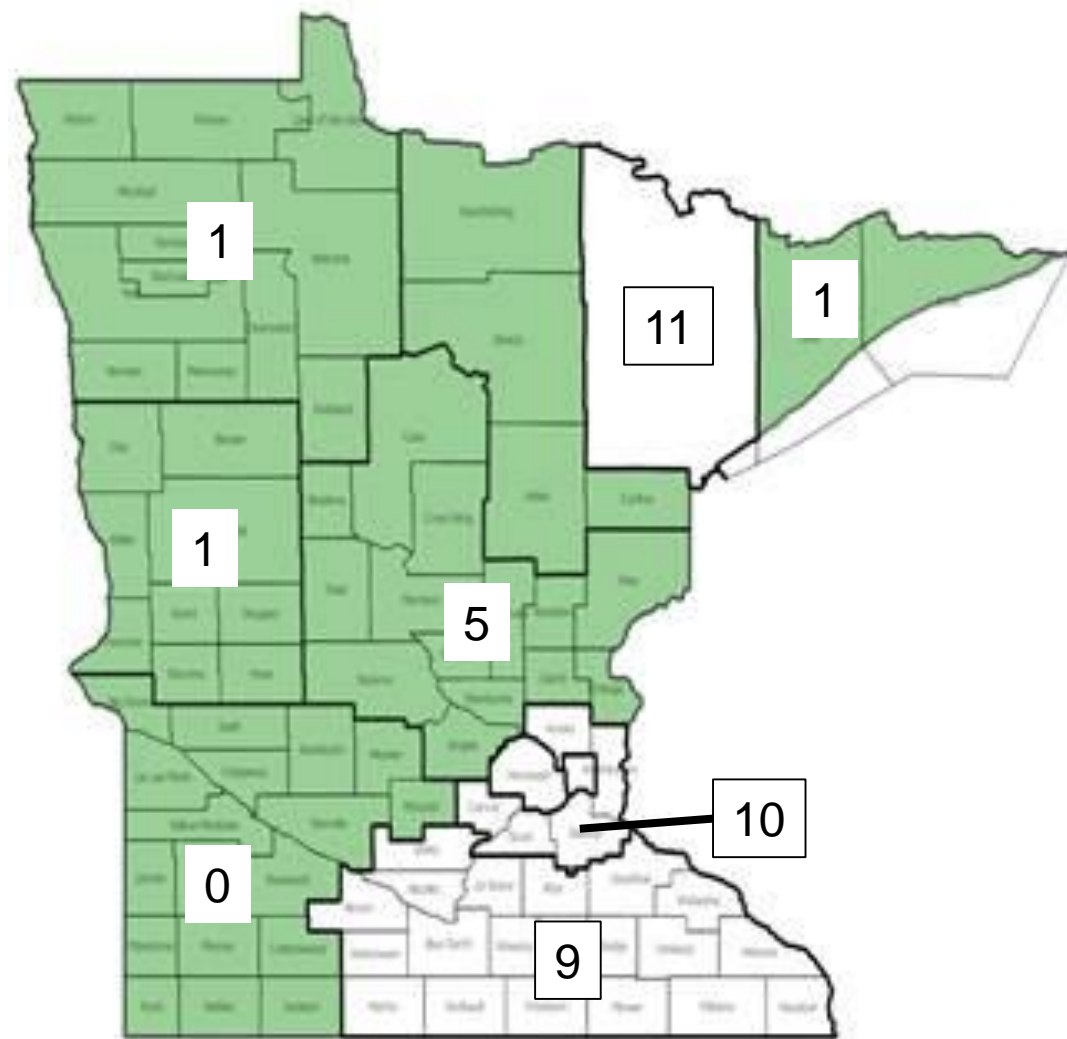


# Statewide progress

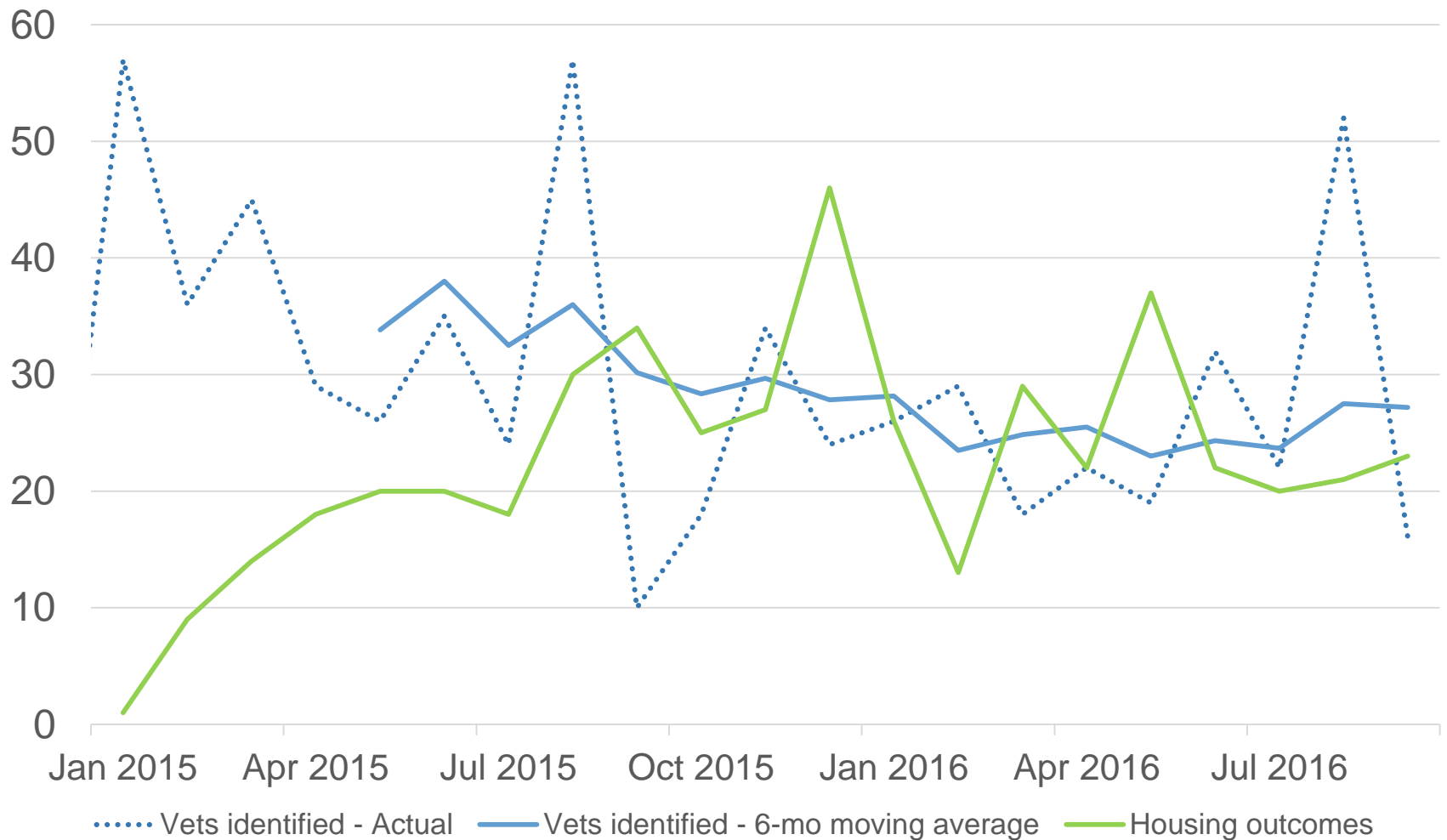


# Ending Veteran homelessness

- Federal government developed specific criteria and benchmarks for meeting the goal
- Five of Minnesota's Continuum of Care regions are testing whether they meet these requirements



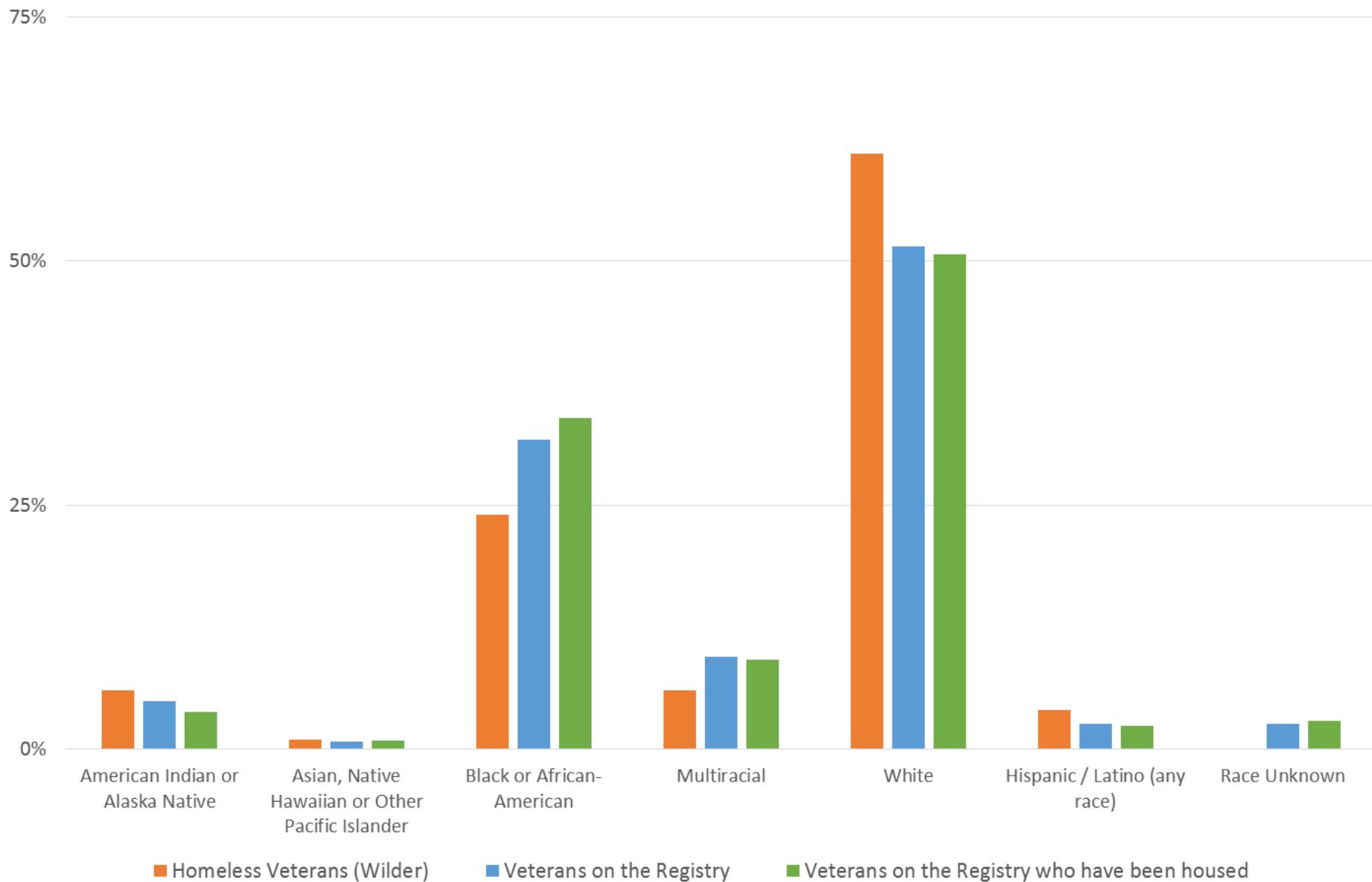
# Hennepin and Ramsey Counties



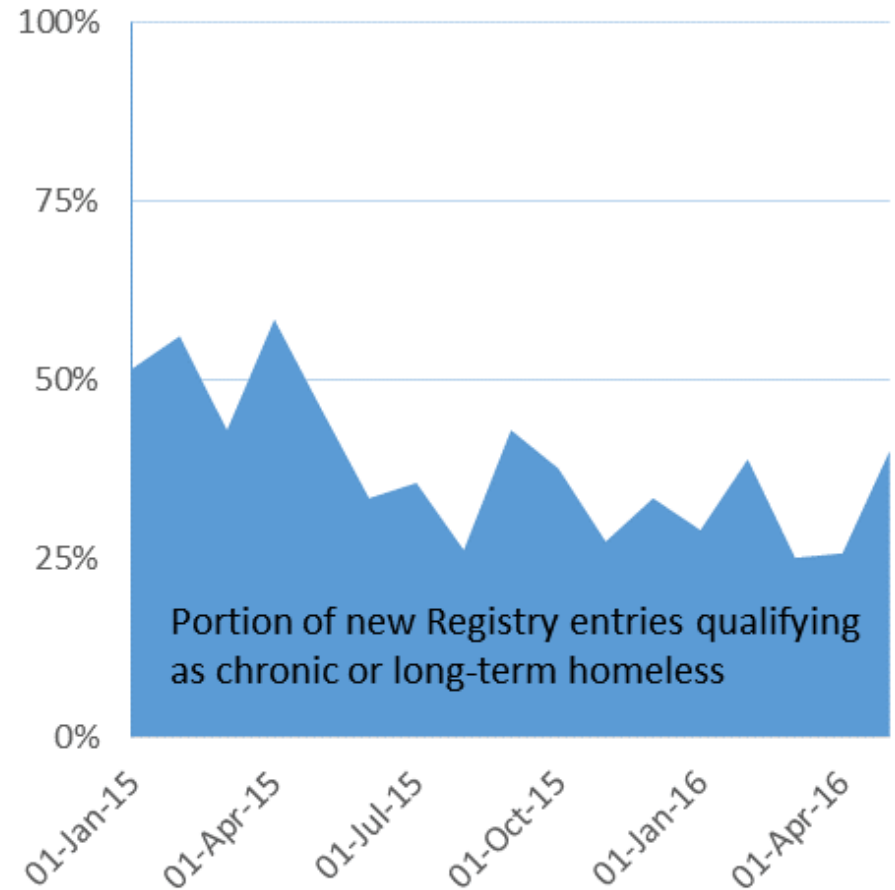
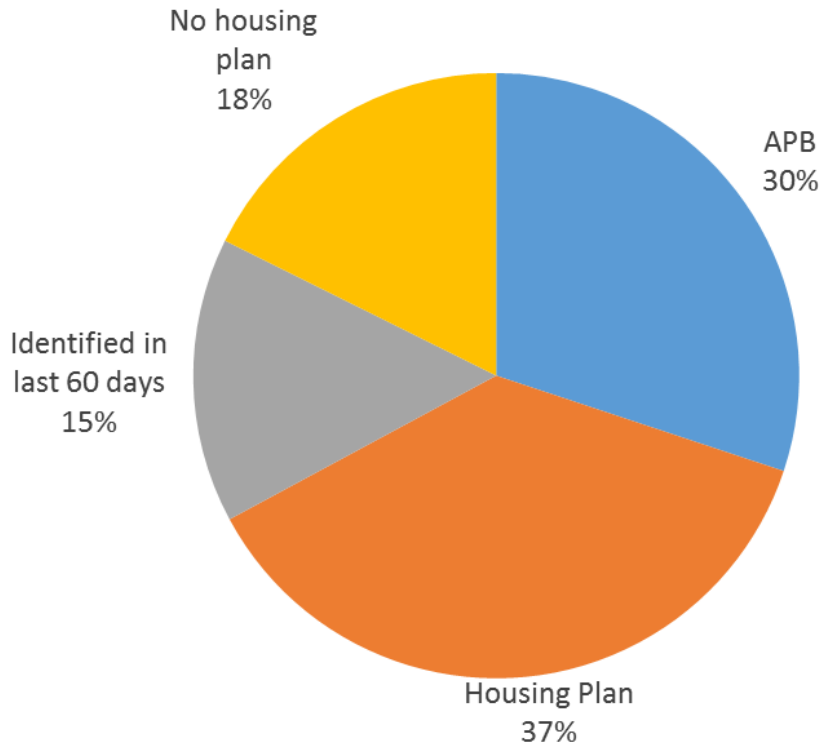
# New commitments on progress



## Equity in housing outcomes across racial and ethnic groups for Veterans on the Minnesota Homeless Veteran Registry



# Population segments





# OUR TOOLKIT FOR HOMELESS VETERANS

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# Minnesota Housing capital investments in Veteran housing

- CommonBond Communities Upper Post Veterans Community – 58 units at Fort Snelling
- Villages at Frost-English – 50 units for families in Maplewood
- Linden Grove apartments – 37 units at VA St. Cloud campus
- Higher Ground St. Paul – 19 units downtown St. Paul
- Veterans East – 100 units at VA Minneapolis campus



# Key tools

## **Minnesota Dept. of Veterans Affairs (MDVA)**

- Veteran Registry
- LinkVet
- State Soldiers Asst. Program (SSAP)
- HUD-VASH Move-in
- M.O.V.E.
- C.O.R.E.
- SOAR
- Veterans Homes
- Outreach and Field Operations

## **U.S. Dept. of Veterans Affairs (VA)**

- SQUARES
- Community Resource and Referral Center (CRRC)
- HUD-VASH
- Grant and Per Diem (GPD)
- Contract Residential
- Full suite of health and behavioral health care services
- Veteran benefits

## **Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans (MACV)**

- Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF)
- Financial assistance
- Legal assistance
- Transitional and supportive housing
- Employment assistance
- Stand Down
- Other assistance

# MDVA Programs, Services, and Homes

- LinkVet (888-LinkVet)
- State Soldiers Assistance Program (SSAP)
- HUD-VASH Move-in
- M.O.V.E.
- C.O.R.E.
- SOAR
- Veterans Homes
- Outreach and Field Operations





 **Social Security**  
Online Services

See what YOU can do online  
at [www.socialsecurity.gov](http://www.socialsecurity.gov)

- Apply for retirement, spouse's, or disability benefits
- Apply for Medicare
- Appeal a disability decision
- Estimate your retirement benefits

"TO CARE FOR WHO SHALL  
HAVE BORN AND FOR  
HIS WIFE PHAN"  
LINCOLN



# SQUARES

- Queries multiple Federal databases to determine whether a record of service exists
- Free and available for anyone to use
- Requires only name, DOB, and SSN
- Yields three possible responses: Yes, No, Inconclusive
- Responses do not confirm eligibility for programs
- To access: <http://www.hmisrepository.va.gov>

**Everyone with a YES response should be referred to join the Registry.** Anyone who claims to be a Veteran without a YES response should also be referred.

# U. S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)

- Community Resource and Referral Center (CRRC)
- HUD-VASH
- Grant and Per Diem (GPD)
- Contract Residential
- Full suite of health and behavioral health care services
- Veteran benefits
- **System-wide adoption of Housing First principles**





**MINNESOTA ASSISTANCE COUNCIL FOR VETERANS**  
**Serving Veterans Throughout Minnesota**



**MACV Mission:** To provide assistance throughout Minnesota to positively motivated veterans and their families who are homeless or experiencing other life crises. MACV accomplishes this by providing direct services or by collaborating with other agencies/providers.



**MACV Vision** To be an enthusiastic, proactive champion and national leader creating and supporting alliances and partnerships to assist veterans who are threatened with or experiencing homelessness.

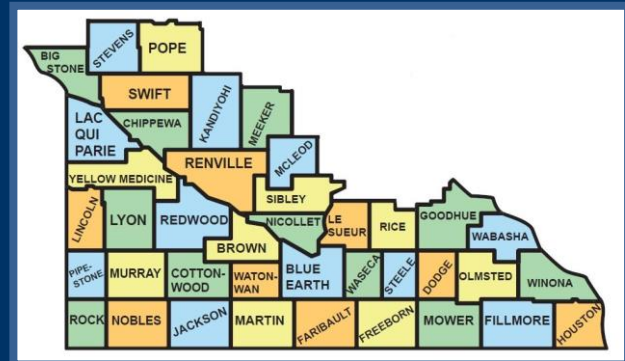
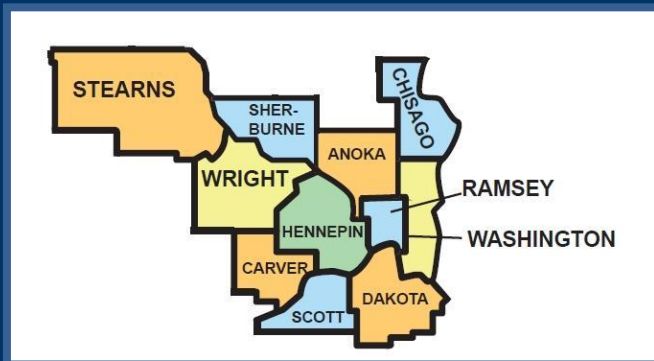
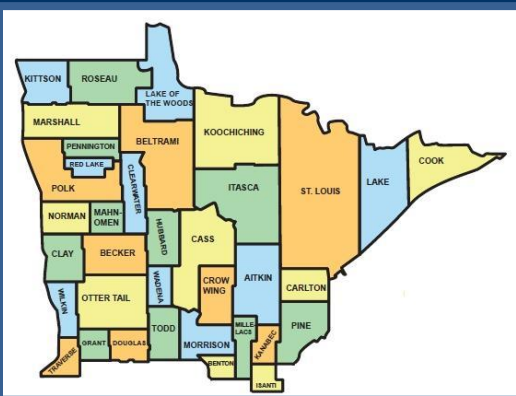
# MACV Locations:

**St. Paul Headquarters:**  
360 Robert Street North  
Suite 306  
St. Paul, MN 55101

**MACV-Duluth**  
5209 Ramsey Street  
Duluth, MN 55807

**MACV-Metro:**  
One Veterans Drive  
VAHCS Building 47  
Minneapolis, MN 55417

**MACV-Mankato**  
724 Madison Avenue  
Mankato, MN 56001





## MACV 2015 STATISTICS

25,000 + contacts annually

In 2015, we assisted over 1950 veterans and their families with direct services

Female Veterans: 11% and rising

Veterans with a Disability: 73%

OIF/OEF/OND Veterans: 30% and rising



**Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans**

Serving Veterans Throughout Minnesota

## **What We Provide...**

Transitional & Permanent Housing with Supportive Services

Eviction Prevention

Mortgage Foreclosures

Utility Payments

Transportation Bus passes Gas Cards

Food Vouchers

Clothing Vouchers

Employment Assistance

Tax & Legal Referrals

Case Management

Network of Providers for Referrals

**MACV PROGRAMS**

# StandDowns 2016

**Fergus Falls – April 28<sup>th</sup>**

**Rochester – May 24<sup>th</sup>**

**Minneapolis – August 2<sup>nd</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup>**

**Virginia – August 25<sup>th</sup>**

**Duluth – August 26<sup>th</sup>**

**Bemidji – September 28<sup>th</sup>**

**Grand Rapids – September 29<sup>th</sup>**

**Marshall – October 12<sup>th</sup>**

**Mankato – November 9<sup>th</sup>**



# How you can help

- Help your community identify every Veteran facing homelessness
- Make sure that your local coordinated entry process is:
  - Identifying Veterans using SQUARES
  - Referring identified Veterans to the Registry
  - Prioritizing Veterans per HUD guidance for available openings
- Support local landlord engagement efforts
- Support efforts to target vacancies (including those not managed through coordinated entry) to Veterans with greatest needs
- Help dispel myths about Fair Housing
  - There are NO Fair Housing concerns with preferentially selecting Veterans for vacancies
  - There ARE serious Fair Housing issues with using blanket screening criteria related to criminal histories

# KEYS FOR HEROES

*Landlords are the key to bringing our Veterans "all the way home"*

Mayor Chris Coleman  
*City of Saint Paul*





JFHQ  
SUPPLY ROOM



# Challenges and opportunities

- Steady “inflow” (new Veterans identified)
- Interventions require collaborative, distributed approach with many partners
- Multiple definitions of Veteran and eligibility
- Tensions around targeting available resources
- Tight rental market and continuing need for landlord engagement

# Discussion

- What else would be helpful to know about progress ending Veteran homelessness?
- How might the lessons from ending Veteran homelessness apply to other populations?

# ***Thank you!***

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[eric.grumdahl@state.mn.us](mailto:eric.grumdahl@state.mn.us)

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